



2024 Annual Report of the Swiss Society of the Kansai

Kobe, end of January 2025

There was no abating in 2024 from the thriving of SSOK in the previous year. 464 people joined our 5 events held throughout the year, which is on the dot the same as in 2023. That the quality of our events is attractive shows the net addition of 17 new members, bringing the total number of members to a whopping 103. In the last 3 years, we could add 35 new members!

The committee met on various occasions throughout the year to prepare the various events and review past events. In-between there were numerous information exchanges by email and on our LINE Group. For the first meeting, Dr. Felix Moesner, Swiss Consul and CEO of Swissnex in Japan invited us to his residence for a delicious Raclette dinner. Thank you, Felix and Makiko, for the hospitality.

On the financial side, we could balance our income and expenses as budgeted and have a cash balance of ¥1,051,633 at our disposal as per end of 2024. Our treasurer Nelson will explain more in detail.

The following events could not have been arranged without the unwavering and loyal support of my fellow committee member, their spouses, and the members, who always give a lending hand during the events. Other important backbones for our society are the Consulate in Osaka, Swissnex in Japan as well as the Swiss Embassy in Tokyo. You all rock! THANK YOU!

Annual General Meeting, Consulate of Switzerland in Osaka, March 2

Following the official opening of the new Consulate of Switzerland in Osaka a few months earlier, we held the Annual General Meeting (AGM), which is always our first event each year, in the premises of the Consulate. The meeting went smooth. All agenda items were approved unanimously. There was no change in the composition of the committee. The AGM, which was attended by 24 members, was followed by a dinner reception with 29 participants. It was the first time that we used catering service.

Spring BBQ, Okuike, May 18

The Spring BBQ was essentially a perfect BBQ. The weather was great. 76 members and guests participated. Among them was Consul Juerg Bono from Tokyo. It was his last official visit to our BBQ, as he went into retirement soon after. We thanked him for his long-standing support to our society with a thank-you ceremony and a souvenir bottle of sake from Nada/Kobe. Apart from the many dishes prepared by the members, we had our usual Cervelats and Bratwursts, and a variety of delicious desserts. Nobody had to go home with an empty stomach! A hearty thank you goes to Swissnex in Japan and to Vinum Helvetica for their wine donations.

Swiss National Day Party, Kobe Club, August 3

The party was held in the nicely decorated ballroom of the Kobe Club. 112 members and guests attended. Among them were HE Dr. Andreas Baum, Ambassador of Switzerland to Japan, Consul Adrian Sieber, who just arrived for his new assignment in Tokyo, and Consul Felix Moesner of Swissnex in Japan. It was a farewell visit to Kobe by HE Dr. Andreas Baum, who left Japan in summer for his new posting in Egypt. The Embassy generously donated 36 bottles of Swiss wines. Thank you! This year we engaged a music band from the Philippines for the entertainment. They created a relaxed atmosphere, and many guests could not hold back to shake a leg until late in the evening!

Donations for our traditional tombola came from (in alphabetical order): Alcotrade, Appenzell Herbs Spirits, Daniel Aviolat, Breitling Japan, Hans Bieker, Herbert Bucher, Chopard Japan, Estate Wines Japan, Didier Hartmann, Hinata Trading, Jackie & Partners, The Kobe Club, Nestlé Japan, On Running Japan, Urs Pfenninger, Swiss International Air Lines, Swiss Tourism, Swissôtel Nankai Osaka, The Ritz-Carlton Hotel Osaka, Victorinox Japan and Vinum Helvetica.



Autumn BBQ, Okuike, October 19

Our Autumn BBQ took place at our usual place in Okuike. Overall, the event was a great success, in spite of the lack of mercy on the part of the weather gods (torrential downpours, windy and cold day). Fortunately, we had uploaded and set up our tents just in time. Despite the bad weather, 105 people showed up for the event. On each event we always see new faces, and people sign up for membership, which proves that the word spreads that our events are attractive. Cervelats and Bratwursts could again be offered thanks to Kozo Iwata (Rock Field Co., Ltd.) and the organizational skills of Andy Mueller. Plentiful beer, wine and spirits were to be had, and the committee members and other attendants pitched in with a generous buffet of salads and desserts. A thank you goes to Swissnex in Japan for the generous 18 bottles' wine donation.

Raclette with a visit from Santa, Kobe Club, December 8

The committee decided to move this year's event from the Kobe Regatta & Athletic Club to the Kobe Club. It proved to be a wise and good decision, as we were overflowed with registrations. A record 142 people joined the Santa and Raclette party (97 adults, 19 students, 26 children), but the ballroom and the adjoining Vista Gallery at the Kobe Club could accommodate all of them comfortably. Initial fears that we would have troubles to serve all of them in a timely matter were soon gone; our 4 Raclette machines (one of them the gas-operated one from Andy Mueller) operated at full power and could handle the crowd without too long waiting lines. The food provided by the Kobe Club was good and served at a good pace. The children got to meet Santa on the stage, which was very nice. All kids were given a Santa bag with goodies, which included Swiss treats directly imported from Switzerland, as well as one of the legendary "Grittibänz", which were baked the day before by a few Committee Members. A big thank you goes to Nestle Japan for their generous donation of KitKats, Swissnex in Japan for the 18 bottles of fine Swiss wines and to Andy Mueller for letting us use his gas operated Raclette machine.

The SSOK would not exist without YOU, the MEMBERS. Thank you for your support, and we hope to see you again at our events in 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

Herbert Bucher
President



